

THE award of THE Sunday Times Gold Medal for Literature to Richard Church nearly caught Heinemann on the wrong foot.

"Over the Bridge," first published in June, had been selling slowly and steadily when on Monday the heavens opened and Heinemann's were beset with orders from all over the kingdom. Fortunately the bulk of a modest second edition was available, but the deluge was not, but a second large reprint had to be put in hand before the day was out.

Road to Fame

For many years a Civil Servant, Richard Church, now sixty-two, embarked late on a literary career and then had lean years as a reviewer and publisher's reader. During this time, one consolation



RICHARD CHURCH

was his part in the discovery and encouragement of young poets, notably Dylan Thomas who later rewarded him ill with a cruel parody of Church's career. In "How to be a Poet," recently reprinted in "A Prospect of the Sea."

Then in 1938 his novel "The Porch" received the Femina Vie Heureuse Prize and modest fame came to him.

Richard Church is very much of a non-colour writer, aloof from schools or factions and plays on the opposite literary wing from poets like Eliot and Auden.

Tall and thin and fine-boned, he walks the world withdrawn but affable, kindly of gaze, unemphatic of voice and, save for an ascriptive breadth of arm in his soft black hat, uneccentric in dress—faintly resembling, in the graceful privacy of his existence, that other famous SUNDAY TIMES Gold Medalist, Mr. T. S. Eliot, O.M.

Ike's Farm

WHEN President Eisenhower leaves hospital in Denver, he will move to his farm at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Workmen are now converting the estate into a "convalescent White House."

Five years ago General Eisenhower bought 189 acres at Gettysburg for £80,000. He now owns 496 acres and has sunk more than £280,000 into the land, buildings,

PEOPLE & THINGS

By ATTICUS

and equipment. The fourteen-room house has been remodelled at a cost of £40,000.

This farm has taken the bulk of the £150,000 that Mr. Eisenhower received for writing "Crusade in Europe" and would have taken the rest if he had had to pay for the photo-electric alarm system which surrounds the whole estate.

Inside this fence the task of running the farm has gone to Mr. George E. Allen, formerly one of Mr. Truman's closest cronies. George Allen is the only member of the old Truman poker-playing set who is still playing gratis at the White House. And it was he who persuaded the Eisenhowers to move to Gettysburg.

Combined Forces

IN Washington, the strain of building a unified Ministry of Defence was the death of Mr. James Forrestal, that arch-advocate of integration for the American armed forces.

Now Mr. Selwyn Lloyd faces at least as great a task in Whitehall and is helped by none. His powers have been substantially increased and he must expand his Department to match the task. The foundation is a small one. The Imperial Calendar names forty-six Civil Servants working at the Defence Ministry. The staff list of the sub-defence Ministry of Supply lists ninety-two pages of the Calendar.

In the immediate future Mr. Selwyn Lloyd will be dependent on the individual Service Ministries—a fact which will sometimes test his belief in administrative evolution rather than revolution. But there is no doubt that Mr. Selwyn Lloyd's ultimate aim is integration, and in this fight he will be armed with the active support of Sir Anthony Eden and Mr. R. A. Butler.

Legal Machinery

LAST week Mr. Joe Loss, the British-born American, was on jury duty in a long and complicated conspiracy case now being heard at the Old Bailey. The Solicitor-General, Sir Harry Hydon-Poster, is leading the prosecution and many people thought that he would also withdraw from this complex case. Sir Henry's Government's principal legal adviser on the Budget.

In fact the Solicitor-General has been needling in his audience at the Old Bailey. He was present on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday, Budget Day, there was no sitting because of the President of Portugal's visit.

In the Inns of Court and the Palace of Westminster, and many lawyers who believe that the law officers appear in court too often. Sir Harry is immensely capable, but there are many competent available who are perfectly competent to prosecute difficult cases.

It seems odd to fritter away the talents of the Attorney-General

and the Solicitor-General when their advice is needed so often by the Government.

Graven Images and . . .

AFTER visiting last week the interest of the Russians in Madame Tussaud's, it occurred to me to inquire whether Messrs. Burgess and Maclean might be considered for exhibition.

Mr. Reginald Edes, whose duties include suggesting names to the Board of Directors, feels that they hardly qualify either as famous or notorious.

To qualify for the latter class one must, it seems, have committed "a classical crime." The diplomats' curious activities are not yet on the Tussaud Index.

. . . Molted Idols

MADAME Tussaud's has a more urgent worry—the host of ephemeral celebrities created by television—for they have room for only 500 figures and new models cost at least £250.

The melting down of fallen idols is a sombre and delicate matter upon which Mr. Edes prefers not to speak; though a certain English boxer is now destined for the pot.

But Mr. Edes says that melting down is irreversible. The clay moulds, with details of colouring and photographs, are preserved and a motion celebrity can always come back.

Lord Jowitt, for instance, first appeared as Attorney-General in the second Labour Government, was liquidated, literally, by the Conservatives, was resurrected as Lord Chancellor in 1945, and now, repainted, survives as one of a group representing the Opposition.

A Famous Community

WHEN the Portuguese Ambassador greeted his President last week he presented an address of welcome from a remarkable body of the descendants of refugees from the Inquisition who have been born in Britain for 300 years.

The Danish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation, which is Britain's oldest Jewish community and numbers about 1,000, continues to worship in its Bevis Marks Synagogue to which Queen Anne presented a beam when it was built in 1701.

The signa-ros to the address, all of whom continue to bear Iberian names, include Mr. Robert James Carver, a president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, and Mr. Alan Mocatta, Q.C.

Witness to Truth

IN spite of the relaxation of Stalinist dress in the U.S.S.R. much of the old Adam still remains in the Soviet official.

Recently the Moscow correspondent of a foreign newspaper ended his letter to his editor with the postscript: "I hope very much that this letter will reach you, but must warn you that the Soviet

censorship of foreign mails still operates."

Three days later the letter was returned to the correspondent with the following note pinned to it by the Censor's Office:

"Not forwarded on account of false statements. There is no censorship of foreign mails in the Soviet Union."

Financial Toppings

A COMPETITIVE thrill has been injected into the dull world of college finance by the "Oxford Magazine." It has printed a table which shows how colleges have ranked in their efforts to increase their investment revenue between 1939 and 1953.

The result is a triumph for Sir Keith Murray, bursar of Lincoln



SIR KEITH MURRAY

throughout this period. Lincoln heads the league and has pulled well away from its closest college rivals—Exeter, St. John's, Wadham, Christ Church, University and Trinity.

Under Sir Keith Murray's regime Lincoln was the only college whose external revenue increased at greater rate than the cost of living. Now Sir Keith has been elevated to the chair of the University Grants Committee and his name is being mentioned with the same jealousy as that of the late Lord Keynes, whose speculative prophecies bolstered the treasury of King's between the wars.

Up in Arms

WHEN, last week, I described as "heraldically correct" the new windows in the House of Lords showing the arms of famous peers, I assumed that the College of Arms would have been consulted. I was an doubtful, for an expert writes:

I have been told that there

are several bloomers. In the arms of one peer, for example, no one would find a piece of his supporters, in spite of much research, "at the War Office" (for all places!). They knew they were Indian soldiers, but they could not find out what sort of costume they wore. So they put them in khaki. As a matter of fact, Indian soldiers are recorded in all their vivid Indian colours in the College—and they date prior to the use of khaki!

It is well that the former King of Arms does not wield the arbitrary powers possessed by his counterpart in Scotland. Lyon would be capable of ordering the destruction of the offending panel.

Ghost Story

MR. CLEVELAND AMORY, the distinguished "ghost" who recently downed tools on the Duchess of Windsor's "autobiography" was given access to authoritative sources at Buckingham Palace.

These were not arranged by the Duke of Windsor, but were made available to Amory on the understanding that he was writing an authorised "autobiography" in which it was important that historic facts and dates should be checked.

Now the Duchess of Windsor's lawyers are trying to prevent him from using this information for a biography (as opposed to an autobiography) of the Duchess.

Spectral Shambles

MEANWHILE "McCall's Magazine" which bought the serial rights of the autobiography, is reminding the Duchess's lawyers that the delivery date for the manuscript is rapidly approaching. With the book publishers it has spent large sums on advance payments to Amory and the previous ghost, Charles Murphy.

One of "McCall's" own editors has now been hurried into the breach, and the special project, which publishing circles say will finally materialise into £250,000 for the Duchess, clanks forward again.

Fractured French

AT an international bankers' meeting last week an English banker thundered at a group of foreign colleagues: "The Credit Suisse is monstrous institution. We view it with the greatest alarm . . ."

A distinguished Zurich banker gave the horrified protest: "Le Credit Suisse! Our greatest bank! Mein Gott, what are you saying . . .?"

Zebra-Skin Waistcoat?

Article	Retail Price	Now
Man's 2-piece suit	£75	£21
Man's 3-piece suit	£80	£24
Man's evening suit	£40	£12

"The Times"